

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-20 are rejected. Claim 21 is newly added herein. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 will be pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 13-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,023,343 (Hoang). Claims 3, 11, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Hoang in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053109 (Lester). Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,898,824 (Kato). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for managing outputs to peripheral devices in medical systems devices, wherein the method comprises, among other elements, “storing the data object in a second memory, wherein the second memory is not a component of the peripheral device; and storing the data object in a first memory if the peripheral device is not accessible and not available to accept the data object, wherein the first memory stores the data object for a longer time period than the second memory.” Neither Hoang nor Kato describe the method as recited in claim 1. For example, the RAM 34 of Hoang and the RAMs 15 and 19 of Kato that are asserted by the outstanding Office Action as the second memory recited in claim 1 are each components of a peripheral device.

With respect to Hoang, print jobs for a printer 10 are temporarily stored in a hard disk drive 38 when a RAM 34 of the printer 10 is full. The outstanding Office Action asserts that the RAM 34 is the second memory recited in claim 1. However, in contrast to the second memory recited in claim 1, the RAM 34 is a component of a peripheral device, namely the printer 10. Notably, the hard drive element 38 asserted by the outstanding Office Action as the recited first memory is also a component of the printer 10. Similar to Hoang, the RAMs 15 and 19 asserted

by the outstanding Office Action as the second memory recited in claim 1 are each components of a peripheral device. Specifically, Kato describes a facsimile machine 1 that prints received image data. In contrast to the second memory recited in claim 1, the RAMs 15 and 19 are components of the facsimile machine 1. Accordingly, neither Hoang nor Kato describe a second memory that is not a component of a peripheral device, as is recited in claim 1.

Lester does not make up for the deficiencies Hoang and Kato at least with respect to independent claim 1. For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is submitted as patentable over the cited references.

Claim 9, as amended, recites an imaging system comprising, among other elements, “a source for transmitting medical imaging signals”. Neither Hoang nor Kato describe or relate to medical imaging systems and therefore neither Hoang nor Kato describe a source for transmitting medical imaging signals. Rather, Hoang describes a laser printer 10 and Kato describes a facsimile machine 1. The asserted computer or workstations 24 and 26 of Hoang do not transmit medical imaging signals. Similarly, the asserted paper detection mechanism of Kato does not transmit medical imaging signals, but rather merely transmits signals that detect the presence of paper. Accordingly, neither Hoang nor Kato describes a source for transmitting medical imaging signals, as recited in claim 9.

Lester does not make up for the deficiencies Hoang and Kato at least with respect to independent claim 9. For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 9 is submitted as patentable over the cited references.

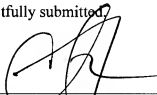
Independent claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Turning to the dependent claims, Applicant submits that claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-21 recite additional features that are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references. For example, claim 21 further recites that the source configured to transmit medical imaging signals source comprises at least one of an ultrasound imaging system, an electron-beam

tomography (EBT) imaging system, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, a single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging system, a computed tomography (CT) imaging system, and a positron emission tomography (PET) imaging system. Neither Hoang nor Kato describe such sources. Additionally, claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-21 depend from independent claims 1, 9, and 17. Because claims 1, 9, and 17 each recite allowable subject matter, claims 2-8, 10-16, 21, and 18-20 also recite allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art neither anticipated nor renders obvious the claimed invention and all of the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles H. Livingston
Registration No. 53,933
THE SMALL PATENT LAW GROUP LLP
611 Olive Street
Suite 1611
St. Louis, MO 63101